

Copy of a
P E T I T I O N
F R O M

The Governor and Company of
the *Sommer Islands*,

With annexed P A P E R S , presented to
the Right Honorable

The Councel of State

July the 19th 1651.

Other Copies of several Letters from Captain
Josias Forster Governor of the said Islands, and from
the said Governor and Councel there : with a
P E T I T I O N from the Inhabitants.

For the more pertinent Information of the several Members
that are, or have been of the *Councel of State*, and others
who may be willing to understand the same.

As also


An occasional Letter written to Sir *John Danvers*,
Governor of the said Company.

With a Short Collection of the most remarkable Passages
from the Original to the Dissolution of the
VIRGINIA COMPANY.

And a large Description of *Virginia*, with the several
Commodities thereof, wherein the general Company of
the *Sommer Islands*, as many of their Members
have considerable Interest.

London, Printed for *Edward Husband*, 1651.

~~3385.28.5~~

86.  *copy*

SA 1235.2



To the Right Honorable

The Councel of State,

The humble Petition of the Governor and Company
of the *Sommer Islands* [*alias Bermudas* ;]

SHEWETH,

T*hat the many great Oppressions upon the said Company and their proceedings in former times, hitherto unredressed, notwithstanding their better hopes in the present Government, occasioneth your said Petitioners most humble desire, that your Honors will be pleased to take view of the state of their Affairs, contracted in this annexed Paper of Considerations, and thereupon to afford such timely answer and relief, as in your wisdom shall seem agreeable to Justice and publique Interest.*

They likewise humbly present to your Honors Consideration, the annexed Petition of some of the said Plantation, desiring shipping, &c. to transport them thither, together with the Copy of an Order of their Court, to give your Honors an account of their care, which they hope in due time will be as effectually executed, if they may be so happy as to obtain that Encouragement as may enable them to proceed herein with vigor and resolution. Notwithstanding they desire no further to assert their particular Rights (which they believe you will account very great) then your Honors shall judge agreeable to justice, with publike safety and advantage.

And shall pray.

Considerations upon the first Constitution of the Sommer Islands Company and Plantation, together with the late Disorders, and the present condition of Affairs there.

THE Treasurer and Company of Adventurers and Planters for *Virginia*, did by their Indenture bearing date the 25th of *November*, 10. *Jacobi*, sell those Islands for valuable Considerations to several Persons, to be enjoyed, with all those Jurisdictions, Royalties, &c. which were granted to them in the first Patent, which invited afterwards many others of true honor and worth to joyn with them; who by their great Expence and Industry advanced the Work so far, that those desolate Places began to be peopled and planted, and several Lords and Gentlemen appearing interested therein, a Patent was obtained for constituting of the *Sommer Islands Company*, with the greatest Priviledges and Immunities that might be; as enabling them to make such Laws for the good and welfare of that Plantation, as to them from time to time should seem requisite, so they were not contrary to those of this State; as also to revoke, discharge and alter all Officers and Ministers which already have been made, or shall hereafter be made if they shall think it meet, for the Government of the said Islands; and to ordain and establish all maner of Orders, Directions, Forms and Ceremonies of Government, and the same at all times to change and abrogate according to their pleasure, not onely within the Precincts of that Plantation, but also upon the Seas in going and coming to and fro: To be free here from all Customs and Taxes, either for Exportation or Importation for seven years, and of all Subsidies in the Islands for the space of one and twenty years; and after the expiration of Seven years, to pay onely five *per cent.* for ever, for all Goods and Merchandize either Exported or Imported: To resist or subdue by force all such person or persons, as without the special Licence of the said Governor and Company, shall attempt to inhabit within the limits of those Islands; as likewise all such as shall enterprize destruction or invasion,

invasion, or any hurt or annoyance to the said Plantation, or to the Marriners or Passengers going thither and returning thence: No stay or employment to be made within any of the Ports of these Dominions, or at Sea of any of their Marriners or Ships, provided or intended for the said Islands, or of any of the Provisions, Goods, Merchandize or Ammunition in any of their said Ships, to be taken or detained from them by any colour or pretence of Authority derived, or to be derived upon any occasion whatsoever: To have full and absolute Power and Authority to punish, pardon and govern all such as shall voyage thither, and inhabit there according to such Orders and Constitutions, as by the said Governor and Company shall be established; and in defect thereof in case of necessity, according to the good Discretion of the Governor and Officers respectively, as well in Cases Criminal as Civil, Marine and others, and the same proceedings as near as conveniently may be, to be agreeable to the Laws and Policy of *England*: The principal Commanders lawfully authorized there to exercise Martial Law in cases of Rebellion and Mutiny: No other then the Company to transport Moneys or Goods out of these Dominions to the *Sommer Islands*, or to Import any hither, upon pain of forfeiture of the said Goods and Ships to the Use of the Company: The Governor and Company may establish and cause to be made a Coyn to pass current among the Inhabitants there, of what mettle and form they please, &c.

And if these and such like Priviledges had not been granted to them, 'tis no ways probable that any would have undertook at so vast expences, a Plantation that was like to bring in so little profit. Whereas that of the *Barbado's* hath made so rich and plentiful Returns to the Merchants and Undertakers; this hath produced nothing hitherto to countervail those great Sums that have been laid out upon it, but in stead thereof strong oppositions from the Court Party here at home; insomuch that the Company being almost tired out with those frequent Oppressions, seem'd resolved to quit themselves of the burthen by the Sale thereof, when it was suggested that the *Dutch* would give 100000 l. for the Purchase; and if the

Court

Court should seem unwilling to make them Masters thereof, no doubt but they would easily condescend that it might be sold to the *Spaniard*.

The several Interruptions here at home produced many factions, especially in the Islands, which by ingrossing that small Trade of Tobacco, &c. from thence, sometimes by one Party, and sometimes by another, were still heightned, till at last upon those great Changes here by the Kings death, they broke out into open Hostility and Defiance, yet no blood shed, the greatest part of the Congregational or Independent way (so called) were banished by those then in Power, but by the now Governor which was constituted since, are again received and live peaceably and quietly. These by their over-violent carriage and former Provocations might possibly augment the madness and malice of the Rabble, and be made less able to secure themselves by their own Divisions, and the Suggestions of such as pretended at least to be their friends; However their Sufferings may appear to have been very great, and such as the Company here is very sensible of, and have been, and still are very forward to redress: But all things cannot be done at once, nor possibly in that way that some desire. And whilst a small Party (seemingly zealous for the publique Interest, when their own Revenge and private Concernment may possibly be as much, if not more intended) propose nothing but Force and Power for the Reduction of those Islands, in a time when greater interests seem to be so much concerned here at home, these particulars may not seem unworthy consideration:

I. The great Rights and Priviledges abovementioned confer'd upon the Company by their Patent, which they can in no wise be supposed to have forfeited, having disclaimed all those Disorders committed by that rude multitude in their Insurrection, and used all means in their power for redress.

II. The Submission which the Islanders instance in their late Letters to the Company, acknowledging their just Power over them, and promising obedience to all their Orders and Injunctions; which they the rather hope for from them, because the Governor there is a man well approved of
for

for his Piety and good Affection to this State, and the government thereof; and who by his faithfulness and wisdom, with the assistance of other good men there, hath already made a good Progress to the quiet settling of those Islands. Nor can there be thought to be in them generally such a spirit of Malignancy as some would have it, considering amongst other particulars that might be instanced in, how stoutly their Magazine Ship defended her self against those Pirates of *Seely* that set upon her in her return hither.

III. The great danger there might be, if all means of Reconciliation were denied them, to put them upon some desperate Resistance, or casting themselves upon some foreign protection, which by some there hath been already attempted, considering the great strength of the place; and how, if the forcing of them should prove ineffectual (as probably it may) the Island may be made a Receptacle for Pirates, to the irreparable damage as well of the State as Company.

IV. That though their rising up in Arms, and declaring as they did, sound high in some mens expressions, yet 'tis confessed by all, that this was carried on by the false suggestions of a few, against the Authority and Interest of the Company, some whereof are since dead, and the rest that are living, if need be, when things are better settled (which seem already to be in a hopeful way) may be called to a severe Account: whilst the greater part were ashamed of their Actions, when it appeared to them how much they had been deluded, and who have since submitted to the Company.

Lastly, That as the Company have the greatest share and interest to look to the quieting and settlement of those Islands, so they cannot be supposed to be so much wanting to themselves and the State, with whom they must either stand or fall, but that they will carefully use all means, that neither they nor the Commonwealth be prejudiced. And if they be not able to carry on the business by their own strength (which they yet doubt not of) they will make their Addresses when occasion shall require, to the State for their Assistance, which they hope will not be denied them.

And for the better Confirming and Settling of those Islands

in their due Obedience, it is humbly proposed, That the State would be pleased to declare in such Way, as in their Wisdom may be thought fit, that the Company may enjoy their Priviledges and Immunities according to the said Letters Patents, whereby they may the more vigorously proceed to repair the Losses they have sustained under the Oppression of the former times, and improve the Plantation to their best and just Benefit, wherein they cannot fail to be serviceable to the STATE.

T O

The Honorable Company of Adventurers
for the Sommer Islands,

The humble Request of sundry distressed Inhabitants of the Sommer Islands.

WHereas sundry or the most part of us were inforced from our Relations and Beings in the Sommer Islands, and at present not having wherewith to buy us bread, Humbly request your Honorable Court would be pleased to consider our sad Condition, endeavour our Peace there, and transmit a Ship for that place with what expedition may be, whereby we may procure our Transportation thither, before we perish here through Want. We also humbly pray your Honorable Court would consider the great want of godly Ministers in that Place, and the evil Event that hath followed thereby, and supply the Place with two or so many, as your Wisdoms shall see meet, which may become a great instrument of settling Peace and prosperity in the Island;

So shall we all be bound to pray, &c.

Stephen Painter.

William Rener, &c.

At

*At a General Court for the Sommer Islands Company,
holden at the accustomed place in Watling-street, on
Wednesday the 15th day of January, 1650.*

Sir John Danvers Governor,
M^r Deputy and others present.

O Rdered, That the several Acts and Orders of Parliament
viz. the Acts, Entituled,

*An Act of this present Parliament for Alteration of several
Names and Forms heretofore used in Courts, Writs, Grants, Pa-
tents, &c. the 30th of January, 1648.*

*An Act Declaring and Constituting the People of England to
be a Commonwealth and free State, the 19th of May, 1649.*

*The Orders of Parliament for Subscriptions to the Engagement,
the 12th of October, 1649.*

*Another Act for Subscribing the Engagement, the 2. of Ja-
nuary, 1649. be put in Execution in the Islands, according to the
Limitations, Powers and Provisions in the said Acts and Orders;
and that the Company shall improve their Interest and Power
for rendring the Islands duly obedient and serviceable to this
Commonwealth.*

T O

The Honorable Company of *Adventurers* for the *Sommer Islands*.

Honorable Company,

HAVING an opportunity offered at present, I can do no less
in discharge of my Duty, then present these few lines un-
to you, giving you to understand that your Magazine Ship the
King of Poland, arrived the 22th of *May* last, by which I re-
ceived your Commission for the Government here, and was
freely and peaceably admitted unto the Place without the least
interruption, contrary to the expectation of many here a-
mongst us; for that in the moneth of *September* last the coun-
trei in general rose up in Arms, outed Captain *Turner* of his

B

Go-

Government surreptitiously gotten, placed in his room Mr. *John Trimmingham*, forced Mr. *Nathaniel Whyte* and some others of his Congregation, to go with Captain *Sayle* to his New Plantation, who as we hear are all safely arrived: But Letters from thence certifie that the little Island they are upon, is a most barren Rock, shallow Earth, not hopeful to produce food for the Inhabitants, which hath stirred up the hearts of their Christian friends in *New England*, to manifest their exceeding Bounty towards them, by a charitable Contribution of at least six or seven hundred Pounds sterling, as I have understood by Mr. *Philip Chadock*, who sayled by our Island in *June* last, in a Vessel laden with all manner of Provisions and other Necessaries for them, in case they are in want.

Upon the Arrival of your Ship I made enquiry what quantity of the last years Tobacco could be found in the Countrey, and upon diligent search I could not hear of above Forty or Fifty Thousand at the most, wherefore the Master and we thought fit to lay up the Ship, and stay for this Years Crop, which I hope will redound much to your advantage: For by the blessing of God I can assure you, that your Ship will have her full Lading of Tobacco which will be very good, if the judgement of men better experienced than my self do not fail: And be you assured, her dispatch hence shall be with all expedition prosecuted to the uttermost of my power.

It rests now upon me to give you Account of the present condition of the people of the Island, who (I thank God) are in a fair posture of peace, and very hopeful so to continue; for I have (by Gods blessing upon my weak Endeavors and extraordinary pains taking, and by my powerful presence in each Tribe, with publique Declarations) so prevailed with the people in general, that they vow and protest with one heart and voice for the future not to act ought that may any ways prejudice the peaceable Government of the Islands under you the Honorable Company and your Substitutes; But will in all things readily, willingly and chearfully submit unto all and every of your lawful Commands, and will with the hazard of their lives maintain your and their lawful Rights against all Opposers whatsoever.

There

There is one thing more I must acquaint you withal, which is, That the Countrey will not admit of Captain *Jennings* to be Captain of the *Kings Castle*, according to your Commission; for that they have been informed, that he upon Treaty with other Gentlemen in *England*; hath condescended to give them admittance into our Harbor with Ship or Ships of force, whereby the Island may be lost, and the Government utterly destroyed: But for my part I hope better things of him, and do believe they can never make good their Charge against him, howsoever I and the Council have thought good to suspend him from the Place for the present. This Ship brought with her Mr. *Pitts*, and other Gentlemen of these Islands, Passengers from *S. Christophers*, who do inform us, that meeting with certain Gentlemen of *Barbadoes*, who were either by the Government there sent out from thence, or voluntarily departed from their Plantations by reason of some troubles there; And upon discourse with the said Gentlemen, they were heard to say, That they were bound for *England*, from whence they doubted not to procure a considerable Force to suppress their Enemies there, and to repair their great Losses: And for the better effecting thereof, they would in the first place invade this Island, under pretence that some in these Islands were the Caufers of their troubles, and so make this a place for their Recruit. All which in bounden duty I ought to acquaint you with, referring the premised Relations to your more judicious and wise Consultations. I remain,

Your ever faithful Servant,

Josias Forster.

*Sommer Islands, the
7th of September,
1650.*

The Honorable Company of *Adventurers* for the *Sommer Islands*.

Honorable Company,

MY humble Service presented. Having in the general given an Account of our proceed, in the prosecution of all your Commands, it remains now in particular for me to hint something of my self : And therefore in the first place I do return you all humble and hearty thanks for the high thoughts you have had of me, in that you have honored me with the Government of these Islands under you, as also for your Present of twenty pounds worth of Goods, which I have received according to Order, both which are sufficient Ties of Fidelity to a meer Moralist; but to a Christian, chains of perpetuity : And such I trust you shall ever finde me to be, as far forth as God shall give me Ability to serve you.

I have in a former Letter, which I hope is come to your hands, given you notice of the sad Condition of the Islands when I took my Place, and how it stood during that short time of my progress; I must now proceed to acquaint you what Success the Lord hath given to my weak Endeavors, in restoring the Government to its ancient posture of Peace; From a tumultuous rebellious People, perfidious Commanders, and a Rabble of a number of new found Seditious Agitators, we are now brought to a People resolutely bent to Peace and Obedience, a Soldiery onely subject to my Command, if I may credit their Protestations, and an utter dissolution of that Fraternity of Incendiaries to our wonted Peace and Government, I and my Councillers being the sole Governors here as ever, under you the Honorable Company. I pray God grant me Wisdom to foresee future Mischiefs, and, Courage to maintain what I have already gotten.

There are three things in my judgement obnoxious to the present Government, and if in time by your Wisdoms not prevented, may beget new Troubles : The first and chiefest is,
the

the want of two Orthodox Ministers; 2. The want of the Ships being not here before Christmas; And lastly, the want of a Magazine of Goods from the Body of the Company; to be resident with the Officers at Town or elsewhere, to be sold at reasonable Rates; for the people do finde in general that the wonted prices be much raised by most of the Agents here, to the great oppression of the Inhabitants: If the Word do not convince, the Sword cannot reform; If timely Supplies come not at conscionable Rates, it will be a hard Task for Authority to restrain Trade with any Ship: I beseech you lay these things to heart. You acquaint me with an Order of the Council of State to you directed, to secure the Persons of Captain *Turner*, and Mr. *Vyner*, and to examine the Crimes and Misdemeanors objected against them, and to send them home, together with the Examinations and Proofs; What their crimes are, or whereof they are accused, I know not, neither have I any Transcript thereof: As for Mr. *Vyner*, he is long since dead, and hath left behinde him a poor Widow much indebted, and three small children, objects of your pity and charitable consideration: And to send Captain *Turner* home without an Accusation or Proof thereupon, were in my judgement impertinent and improper; wherefore for the present I shall onely secure his Person here, and seize upon his Personal Estate to your use till further order.

I am required to send you an Account of the Servants belonging to the Colony, as also what number of Cattle, and quantity of Corn was left by Captain *Turner*. For Answer thereunto, you shall know, that I have received from Mr. *Trimingham* then in place of Government, ten Cows and one Bull, and eight Hogs-heads of Corn: And for the servants appropriated to my place, I have in all but fifteen Negro's and Mulattoes, whereof five Men-servants and the rest women; And of a truth I must tell you, that of the men I have but two that are able to do their labor, the other three in a manner past their work: For three of the women, if they dress their own victuals it is well. Here are three Negro's more, one with Mr. Sheriff, and the other a small youth with the Secretary, and the third being a small girl, with Mr. *Fox*. I have a small youth
about

about nine years old left with me by Mr. *Buckleman*, I bleſs God, Charity bids me keep him, who ſhall not want whileſt I have for mine own; the childe is tractable, and having neither Father nor Mother, deſerves pity. Now my Requeſt unto you is, That in addition to your former Favors, you would be pleaſed to beſtow his time upon me, or to order me a certain Allowance for a few years towards his Education, in ſome meaſure ſuitable to the hopes I have of him; his name is *Thomas Simpson*, what his time is I know not. By all this it will appear unto you what a ſmall proportion of Means will accrue unto me, to maintain the Charge of my Office. God knows my heart, I aim not at the riches of this world, my deſires are onely to preſerve my dear Wife and children from miſery and want after my deceaſe, which muſt inevitably fall upon them, if I continue in this chargeable Place of Service, unleſs the Honorable Company ſhall conſtantly & yearly allow me a ſufficient Salary of at leaſt Fourſcore pounds *per annum*, which I truſt you will do both for your own Honors ſake, and for the Dignity of the Place of chief Government by your free choice conferred upon me. I ſay no more but onely this, He that ſacrificeth at the Altar, muſt live by the Altar, and he that ſpends his ſpirits and whole endeavors in diſcharge of Government, muſt live by that Government. I may ſay without any vain glorious boaiſting, I have hitherto waded throughout many difficulties, doing my duty diligently therein, and aiming at the Publique not mine own good, and ſhall for ever faithfully perſiſt in ſo doing upon your continued Encouragements; and ſo do reſt,

Your moſt humble and obliged Servant,

*Sommer Iſlands, the
20th of December,
1650.*

Jofias Forſter.

Exam. per Johannem Mordaunt, Secretary.

P O S T - S C R I P T.

S*ince the writing of theſe, here arrived two Ships from Sagateea, which brought with them ſome ſeventy people, Men, Women and Children, who deſired to be received to their former Beings*

Brings and Relations, promising obedience to the present Government; whereupon I called the Councel together, and having debated the matter, we concluded, That they should, as many as would, stay here, which we conceived could not be denied them in justice. Yet suddenly after some of the Commanders and other of the ruder sort of the people, gave out threatening speeches that they would send them all away, and to that purpose gave Powder and Shot to some of their Soldiers; but having timely Advertisement thereof, I took speedy course to prevent their mischievous intent, and by the blessing of the Lord I so pacified them as that they did not proceed to Action, and for the present they are all at quiet, and I hope will so continue. Howsoever my Resolution is firm and unchangeable, rather to die in the just defence of your right of Government, then to comply with them in the least of their unlawful desires, so saith

Your faithful Servant,

JO: FORSTER.

Exam. per Johannem Mordant, Secretary.

The Supercription.

To the Honorable Company of *Adventurers* for the
Sommer Islands, These present.

To the Right Honorable
The Company of *Adventurers* for Plan-
tation in *Sommer Islands*.

Right Honorable Sirs,

YOURS of the first of *January*, 1649. directed to our present Governor, came to his hands the 22. of *May*, 1650. and the next day his Commission was publicly read in the Church, where he took his Oath in the presence of the Countrey, to govern according to your Laws and Orders.

We do most heartily thank you for the choice of so grave
and

and so experienced a Gentleman to rule and govern us, and although the Government was quite out of frame and in a dangerous posture, yet now (blessed be God) there is such a willing and ready obedience from all the people in general, that the Government is reduced to its ancient bounds in a peaceable, quiet and orderly posture, and I hope the Lord will so continue it, to our comfort and your good.

We do thank you also for your Favor and Encouragement by your Present of 20 l. to our Governor which was received in commodities; he had a very quick vend for all, especially the Sack staid not long upon his hands; we all helped to drink it off, for we knew it was paid for before.

As for your Order in placing of Officers, we have gone as near as we could, Mr *Painter* being out of the Land, we have continued Mr *Morgan* in *Southampton* Tribe, Mr *Wainwright* refused the place, by reason of some former Engagement to the Countrey when they were in Arms. Mr *Norwood* would accept of the Place, but he would not take the Oath with the rest of the Council so they excepted against him, and I took in Mr *John Turner* in his stead for *Devonshire* Tribe.

We are given to understand that you are informed, that the people which are gone from us were forced away. Thus much we can assure and affirm, that there was never a Councillor in the whole Island that had any hand in it; neither did it appear unto us, that they had any desire to stay here; they might have all stayed, if but submitted to the Government. We do expect them daily here, for Mr *Philip Chaddock* is gone out of *New England* to fetch them off, but with what safety we can receive them, except they do submit to the Government, we know not, yet we do intend to receive such as have any interest, and attend your further pleasure concerning them.

Your clemency in remitting former Miscarriages being timely published, hath not onely bound up that sore, but hath also stopt the current of other more desperate proceedings.

We have your Orders in transmitting the material Evidences in all Appeals. We have made seizure of all the Goods of Captain *Turner*, but can finde no Spanish goods, and therefore have onely secured them here till further order. And as concerning

cerning the wreck , all plead that they have accounted to your Commissioners.

The cause of your Ships long stay was no fault of ours ; she came in very unseasonable, yet nevertheless she might have had a good Voyage to the *Barbado's* with Live-cattel, Beef, Pork and Fish, but it seems their Commission was not strong enough to proceed in that Design : We have always desired to have your Ship here before *Christmas* , and do still desire it, and so you may be sure of a quick Return.

There is little or no goods in the Countrey, it were well that a Store of goods were placed in the Town for the use of the Countrey, so should you be sure to secure all the Tobacco's, that none should be traded away from you, and for such goods as come over to particular men here, they come to the Planter at such an excessive Rate, that they are not able to pay for them.

The Inhabitants requested us to acquaint you, how that they have been long Petitioners to you for to afford them some Relief, and ease the heavy burthen that is taxed upon poor mens labor, by that insupportable Excize and other Taxes upon Tobacco, so that in conclusion the poor Planter's twelve moneths labor is swallowed up by Excize and Custom; But in stead of relief they finde a heavier load continually upon them. Consider their condition, and relieve them if you can, we leave them to your due and serious consideration.

We have according to Order summoned Colonel *Sandys* his Agent and Tenants , and he shall receive an Account in his particulars Letters.

We should be very ready and willing to do Sir *Benjamin Rudiard* and M^r *Grant* any service, in recovering of their Rents from their Tenants, but their Agents never appear unto us, neither do we know who they are.

Likewise M^r *Lewis* his Agent hath not required our Assistance, neither do we know the state of that business.

As for M^r *Cawleys* business, he had between twenty and thirty Actions tryed this Assize ; Captain *Thomas Burrows* being his Agent , he recovered them all, except two Actions with M^r *Sommerfal*, in which there is an Appeal granted, which the Secretary will give an exact Account of.

We have received three Barrells of Powder, 500 pound of Match, but no Colours, though expressed in your Letters. We shall be careful to put your Laws in execution for Powder from Ships arriving here.

As for M^r *Drakes* business, there was an Account given to Captain *Jennins*, and M^r *Francis White*, according to order.

We have received six pair of Drum heads, with braces, snares and lines, which are disposed of according to Order, we desire you to send the Colours for the Forts by the next.

We have given order to M^r *Norwood* to take charge of the Books given to M^r *Barber*, which were left with M^r *Goulding*; M^r *Norwood* hath received them, being in number twenty four, and two Books which M^r *Goulding* gave at his death.

Captain *Jennins* upon some words spoken by him, was charged by some in the Islands of Treason, whereupon he fled, we doubt not but he is in *London*; we have sent the Proceedings against him under the Secretaries hand, the which we leave to your judgement and discretion. There was a Report made in the Islands, that some of the Company was hiring of a Ship to take the Islands, and that Captain *Jennins* was privy to it, but for our parts we give no faith to that Report, it bred a great deal of disturbance here.

And whereas the Council of State, together with your selves, hath harboured so good an opinion of me, as to intrust me in this employment, I shall through Gods Assistance, render a faithful Account of my actions, and to the utmost of my power preserve your Rights and Priviledges according to the Oath which I have taken, and I doubt not, the fidelity of my Council, and the obedience of the people.

You give us notice of an Order of the Council of State for the sending home of Captain *Turner* and M^r *Vyner*, upon Examination of their Crimes and Misdemeanors; we have no written Accusation against them, so that it remains onely to secure the person of Captain *Turner* till further order, M^r *Vyner* being long since dead.

M^r *Hooper* is a very sickly man, therefore we beseech you consider our necessity, and send us a supply of honest able men. M^r *Pointal* came not to us, yet we understand that your intentions

tions were real towards us, for which we give you thanks, and we hope you will not be unmindful to send us a couple at least by the next Ship; they may live very comfortably here, we have built a house in Town from the ground for one against he comes.

You made mention of an Order from the Council of State for removing *Mr Vaughan* the Secretary, if we did see cause; Truly we see no other, but that he hath been very diligent and careful in his Betrustment, and very little Encouragement he hath, having had never a servant since his coming to the Place; And now he is married to a yong woman, the daughter of *Mr John Tremmingham*, and more charges like to come upon him: A little Encouragement would do well, but we leave him to your grave consideration, not doubting but that you will be pleased to answer his expectation, for we do assure you, he doth take a great deal of pains.

We do likewise commend unto your charitable thoughts the Petition of *Mrs Vyner*, and that you will be pleased to signify your pleasure concerning her unto us.

As concerning the several Orders sent unto us; For the first concerning the setting of Officers, we made Captain *Richard Jennins* Councillor of *Sandys* Tribe, *Mr Charles Morgan* for *Southampton*, *Mr John Devie* for *Warwick* Tribe, *Mr John Tremmingham* for *Pagets*, *Mr John Turner* for *Devonshire*, *Mr William Berckley* for *Pembroke*, *Mr Thomas Penniston* for *Smiths* Tribe, *Mr John Milner* for *Hamilton*, *Mr Nath: Stowe* for *S. Georges*.

II. Concerning your Act of Indempnity, it was executed according to order, and wrought a good effect.

III. The several Appeals of *Mr Hunt* against *Jennins*, as they proceeded hence without order, so they remain in the Office, and no body looks after them.

I V. *Mr Sheriffs* order for ten pounds gratuity was delivered to him.

V. The Appeal of *Robert Nolton* and your Order thereupon, was executed accordingly.

VI. Your Order concerning *Mr Whites* suing of Captain *Turner*, Captain *Turner* readily submits unto your Order, and

he doth acknowledge your favor and justice in reserving him the benefit of Appeal.

VII. Your Order concerning *Langstons* Will, which was sent to you last year; We had a Debate here in Court concerning it, according to your Order: We finde upon the Oath of Captain *Jennins*, that the Will was made *bona fide*, and the Oath of one of the Sea-men, who brought the said Will into the Office with Captain *Jennins*, and proved it to be the last Will and Testament of the said *Langston*; but having no Seal fixed at it, we leave it to your judgement, whether it be of validity to carry Lands from the heir in common Law.

VIII. The Appeal of M^r *William Berckley* against *Marsh*, we have according to order, made void the said Verdict illegally obtained, being not warned to answer such an Action, nor no Defence made in that Plea, as appears unto us by the Oath of M^r *Iohn Stowe*, M^r *Richard Hunt*, and divers others; And therefore we have granted M^r *Berckley* a new Tryal accordingly: but Captain *Marsh* hath not been here these four years.

IX. Your Order *inter Lowe* and *Jennins*, was put in execution accordingly.

X. M^r *Pointel's* Order concerning a share of Land, we hear nothing of him.

XI. We humbly desire that no Appeals be taken notice of, except they be certified under the Secretaries hand, and that you will be pleased to expound the meaning of double costs and charges upon Appeals, according to the Book of Orders, for that Article 138. in the Book of Orders is not clear to our apprehensions.

XII. You shall receive with our letters the Appeal of M^r *Axon* on the behalf of M^r *Waye* against M^r *George Tucker*, with the proceedings thereupon under the Secretaries hand.

XIII. The Appeals of M^r *Cawley* against *Sommerfal*.

XIV. And another of M^r *Cawley* about a servant.

XV. The Free-school presented by the grand Inquest which we leave to your consideration. There are great complaints of those that have many children, we leave it to your judgements to regulate the matter, or signifie your pleasure therein unto us.

We have sent you *Allens* Petition.

You

You may please to take notice that M^r *George Tucker* did in the Court after the Jury had brought in their Verdict of 50 l. Damage for him in an Action of Defamation against *Roger Axon*, offer to acquit the said *Axon*, if he would acknowledge that he had done him wrong, but the said *Axon* did obstinately refuse to make an acknowledgement: Wherefore M^r *Tucker* humbly desires that the said Verdict be confirmed, and he will dispose of the money for the publique good of the Islands.

We have bought a Barrel of Powder of the *Marshal* for an addition to our Store, which M^r Sheriff hath consigned payment of by Bills of Exchange charged upon your Treasurer, which we hope you will order payment of accordingly.

We humbly desire that you will be pleased to furnish us with some Arms and Ammunition as you shall think fit. We repaired our Forts, and under God made them tenable against any Assault. We are much threatned, but be you confident whilst we have to do with your Government, there shall not dare to be the least opposition to your Orders and Commands. And we are glad that the Honorable Council of State doth confirm your Rights in this Plantation, which no Enemy shall defeat you of, whilst we have a drop of blood to maintain it.

The Agrievances of the several Councillors; That whereas it is a charge and trouble unto them to be at all Meetings of the publique Service, and no notice taken of them by your Honors, nor Profit nor Priviledges belonging to their Places; for they contribute with others in all Levies and Taxes; They humbly desire, that your Honors do allow each of them a servant as formerly done, or otherwise what you please; they are so modest, that your wills shall be their content.

We have been requested by certain of the Inhabitants to give way for them to present something to your Honors by way of Declaration: it is a thing that hath been formerly practised here, and allowed by your selves, that if the Countrey were agrieved, they might present their Grievances by way of Petition to your Honors, and so far we have now consented to them, what your Honors shall order therein, shall be observed by us.

We humbly desire your Honors to regard the Petition of *George Washington*, who was condemned to die for words
tending

tending to High Treason, he remains in Prison expecting your mercy and pardon.

We humbly desire your Honors not to credit all Reports and scandalous Letters, the which have bred a great distance and dis-affection betwixt some of your Members, and some people here ; for our parts, we do own you all in general as Members of one Body, and our Relation is alike to all, and shall not profess it onely in words, but in practice, and so by Gods assistance create and preserve a right understanding between you and us.

We do likewise give you to understand, That we have made open Proclamation through the Islands, that if any person or persons could object any thing against Captain *Turner*, or give any evidence on the behalf of the Honorable Company, that they should repair to me and my Councel at a time and place limited, and they should be heard, but none appears.

We humbly desire you to declare your Judgement in the Case of Mr. *Ewer* and Mr. *Coupland*. And we desire you that Secretary *Mordaunt* do send the last Order ; there was an Order mentioned in the general Letter, but we could not finde it.

We do recommend you and your Affairs to the protection of Almighty God, and remain,

Your Honors Servants,

Exam. per *Johannem Mordaunt*,
Secretary.

William Seymer.
John Milner.
John Devit.
Tho: Penistone.
Nath: Stowe.

Josias Forster.
Roger Wood.
Henry Tucker, Sheriff.
J: Tremingham.

J. Vaughan, Secret.

POST-

P O S T - S C R I P T.

Mr. John Tremingham having the charge of the Government when your Commission came, did very faithfully in obedience to your Commission, deliver up all things into the hands of our present Governor, with the Castle and Servants.

J. Vaughan Secret.

Josias Forster.
Roger Wood.
Henry Tucker, Sheriff.

The Superscription.

To the Right Honorable the Company of Adventurers for Plantation in Sommer Islands, These present.

Exam. per Iohannem Mordaunt, Secret.

To the Honorable
**The Governor and Company of
Sommer Islands Plantation,**

*The humble Petition of the Inhabitants of the said
Islands;*

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

That whereas through the goodness of God these Islands for many years past have enjoyed a happy tranquillity, enjoying Peace and Plenty under the Government of your Honors, the Honorable Company for this Plantation, whose constant care and endeavors, together with no little charge and expences, have been from time to time to protect and preserve us, according to his Majesties Letters Patents, King James of famous Memory, which we still desire may be the
true

true Rule and Square of your Government, as that to this time hath been, and we humbly conceive will be the onely way to continue our happiness and your interests. And having had former experience that you have not ceased upon all occasions to be the onely Asylum, Sanctuary and place of Refuge for these Islands in general, or any Member of it to flee unto in particular in the time of trouble; We therefore being wheeled about into these times of Distraction, building upon your wonted Favor, to desire to present this our Declaration and Humble Request unto your Honors, and therefore not doubting of your Honors favorable hearing, and gracious answering our just Desires, we declare as followeth:

I.

That the Honorable Company for the *Sommer Islands* Plantation legally admitted according to the Letters Patents, is a lawful Power set over us, and that we do own them, and do and will submit to them.

II.

We declare, that we do not acknowledge, neither will we obey or submit to any other Commands to be prevalent here, then that which comes to us by or from the Honorable Company, and limited by the Letters Patents.

III.

We declare, that so long as the Company be suffered to act freely, and that no other Power interposeth them, we will willingly observe and submit to their Orders and Commands to us thus directed. But for so much as shall be imposed upon the Company by any Power whatsoever other than from the Honorable Company, we may not, we dare not, we will not obey or be subject unto them, but to the utmost of our powers withstand and oppose them.

Fur-

Further our humble Petition and Request unto your Honors is, That you would be pleased to confirm it there for the future, and to the Worshipful the Governor and Council here; that they would be pleased to put these things following in practise for the present.

I.

That none be suffered for the future to bear any Office or Trust amongst us or command over us, that will not agree and subscribe to this; but that a watchful eye may be kept over them, and a careful observation of their Demeanor and Actions.

II.

That if any Command or Order do come to the Governor or Countrey from any but the Company, that the parties that send them, bring them, or divulge them, be censured as Disturbers of the Islands Peace, and that such Commands and Orders may be forthwith speedily suppressed and protested against.

III.

We desire further your Honors to consider our great necessity in the want of Ministers, and we beseech you to send us a supply of Orthodox men by the next Return.

Thus have we made bold to present unto your Honors our Desires and Resolutions, which we are resolved to live and die in, and to maintain with our lives and fortunes to the last drop of our bloods, and we question not of your encouragement therein, and of your utmost aid and assistance to so just and consonable Resolutions and Endeavors.

And whereas some Malignant spirits of our own, together with those Fugitives that fled from the Island of Barbadoes have threatened to take this Island from you and us, and to make this their place of Rendezvous, that so they may the better effect

D

their

their Designs upon the *Barbado's* : We do therefore earnestly desire you, that since it concerns you as much as our selves to use diligence, to prevent their Plots at home, and likewise to send us some store of Arms and Ammunition, that so we may be the better enabled to give them entertainment if they shall come, and to preserve this Island, your just Rights and Interest, and the Lives and Estates of us the Inhabitants, from the fury and rapine of any that should oppose us.

Lastly, We desire the Governor and Council that they would transfer these Desires and Resolutions of the Countrey by this Ship to the Company, and that they may be likewise recorded in the Office here.

Rich: Herbert Captain, &c.

Exam. per *Iohannem Mordaunt*,
Secret.

To the Honorable

Sir John Danvers Knight,
Governor of the *SOMMER ISLANDS*
Company, &c.

SIR,

WHEN I last enjoyed the sweet Air, and those other pleasurable Refreshments, which you have often vouchsafed unto me at your house in *Chelsey*, I found with you many Gentlemen of the *Sommer Islands Company*, whose presence occasioned my perusal of a Petition, with the annexed Papers and Letters, intended to be presented to the Council of State, touching the present condition of those Islands; and I have now sent you this Account of my thoughts and desires

fires thereupon, in hope to give you thereby an opportunity to improve your own good purposes towards the distressed and distracted Inhabitants of those Isles: For I being heretofore by that Company freely-chosen to be Governor of that Colony, as likewise approved by the Committee for Plantations; and having also at every Return since that time received very many Letters, testifying a general and extraordinary desire in those Inhabitants, that my Affairs would permit my Acceptance of their Government; it makes me not onely to conceive my self thereby greatly obliged in thankfulness for that respect, but it hath also rooted in me an unfeigned desire both of establishing their peace, and of preventing (according to my power) whatsoever may be destructive to their welfare. And this desire is the stronger in me, because I evidently discover that the neglect of timely settling those Islands in a safe and flourishing Constitution, may not onely occasion the sudden subversion of that Colony, but of many mischievous effects also to all our Plantations in *America*, and consequently to the inexpressible future damage of this Republique.

I need not illustrate this unto you, nor have I now written to provoke you to those prosecutions, which may conduce to the well being of the *Sommer Islands* or *Virginia*; for you have sufficiently testified many ways your zeal therein, and there are elsewhere, as well as in the annexed Papers, publique acknowledgements thereof from others; but my intention is rather hereby to represent unto you a brief Testimonial of my own gratitude and good affection to the Inhabitants of the *Sommer Islands*, by offering somewhat toward the extenuating of that seeming Revolt from this Commonwealth, which they are charged withal; and by giving in my sense and favorable interpretation of that conditional Submission which they have lately sent from the Body of their Plantation, to your self and the Honorable Company.

I must confess that some Relations which are made of Mis-carriages happened among them, being strictly considered, have rendred them very blame-worthy, and many of them (I fear)

are inexcusable; yet when I consider that such failings are at this time Epidemical among the *English* in all parts of the world wheresoever they reside, as was heretofore the disease called the *Sweating Sickness*, I dare not (as many do) peremptorily conclude them justly to be proceeded against as enemies to this Republique, much less can I be so uncharitable, when I consider at how great a distance they are from our Climate, of what sort of people their greater number consists; under what Government they had their first being; how swiftly and confidently Mis-informations are scattered; how difficultly true Relations are divulged, begetting a right understanding of our proceedings, and how miserably that People hath been distracted by the Troubles and Divisions lately happening among them; For if they who have resided from the beginning of the late Troubles, where they saw and heard dayly all Transactions between the late King and Parliament, have nevertheless been sometime deluded, and obtained favor upon return to a right understanding and prosecution of their Duties, doubtless a larger indulgence may seem due to the *Bermudians* upon their Submission, who have erred chiefly by Mis-information: And in my understanding that Obedience which they have expressed in their late Petition to their Honorable Governor and Company, is not wholly to be rejected, though it be not drawn up in such terms as may be justly expected from them hereafter.

Nay, that which makes their Submission imperfect in the judgement of many, renders it more praise-worthy then culpable in my opinion, if the Priviledges claim'd by the Adventurers do really belong unto them; For though it was intended by their Patent, that the Supream Magistracy of this Nation should from time to time have the Sovereignty over the Inhabitants both of those Islands, and of all other Colonies under their protection; the Inhabitants of every Colony ought nevertheless to be obedient to the Commands of that Government and those Governors, to which they are next and immediately subordinate, and should not obey the Commands of any other Power, but such as comes unto them by the mediation of their proper Superiors, until such their Power be lawfully suspended, and that Suspension

tion orderly signified unto them by that Supream Authority that makes it void or invalid for the present : For if such as are subordinate especially to remote Governments should be obliged to regulate their Obedience according to every wandering information, though seemingly probable, and give credit to that which comes unto them by strange hands, there would never be an end neither of popular Confusions and Distractions, nor of Rebellions against Supream and Subordinate Powers.

A just duty may occasion great inconveniences by being irregularly performed, and if this Republique should accept the immediate acknowledgement of her Supremacy from the *Sommer Islands*, before her Authority were duly recommended to their Inhabitants by the Governor and Company, to whom they were more immediately subordinate, it might occasion more detriment then real advantage to both Authorities : For they who upon rumors or motives from a forreign Account are irregularly drawn to the performance of a just act, may quickly upon the like motives be irregularly withdrawn again from a righteous undertaking, and the Commonwealth can have no other assurance of the fidelity of such a people, save a fickle and ungrounded profession of their present inclination ; whereas when their Submission comes warranted by the Authority of those on whom they have a lawful and reasonable dependance ; the legality and reasonableness of it makes the one Party the more bold and constant in their obedience, and gives the other Party the more assurance of that obedience which is professed thereunto. And this Commonwealth hath no Disadvantage (as I conceive) by conniving for the present at that profession of absolute Obedience, which the *Bermudians* have made to their Governor and Company here residing in *England* ; for if the said Inhabitants of the *Sommer Islands* (as they assert in their Petition) will be absolutely obedient to all the Commands of their Governor and Company here residing, it may be expected that they will be obedient also to the Supream Authority of this Nation, unless their said Governor and Company enjoin the contrary, which may be confidently presumed will not be done by them against the interest which they have by their shares

shares of Land, so valuable by the Power and Priviledges thereunto belonging.

Upon consideration of the premises, it is humbly propos'd on the behalf of the distressed Inhabitants of the said Islands, as followeth : First, That whereas the said Islanders profess absolute obedience to those Commands which come to them from their Governor and Company, that it may by your Endeavor be made appear and declared, whether an absolute obedience be immediately due from the said Islanders to the Company, or no? and if it be so, whether the Commands of our Supream Magistracy here, ought not to be recommended to the said Islanders by means of their said Governor and Company, before the said Islanders are bound to take notice of such Commands as obliging, and that provision may be made accordingly to preserve the just interest of the said Islanders, together with the distinct Rights of this Republique, and of the said Company. Secondly, That you would be pleas'd to improve your uttermost Endeavor to mediate the Reconcilement of the said Islanders to the State upon their absolute submission thereunto, when the Commands of Supream Authority shall be recommended to them by the Company; and vouchsafe so to hasten it also, that the Enemies of this Commonwealth may not get opportunities by the delay thereof, to endanger the total loss of those Islands at this time, wherein many are watching Advantages for divers ends to surprize them.

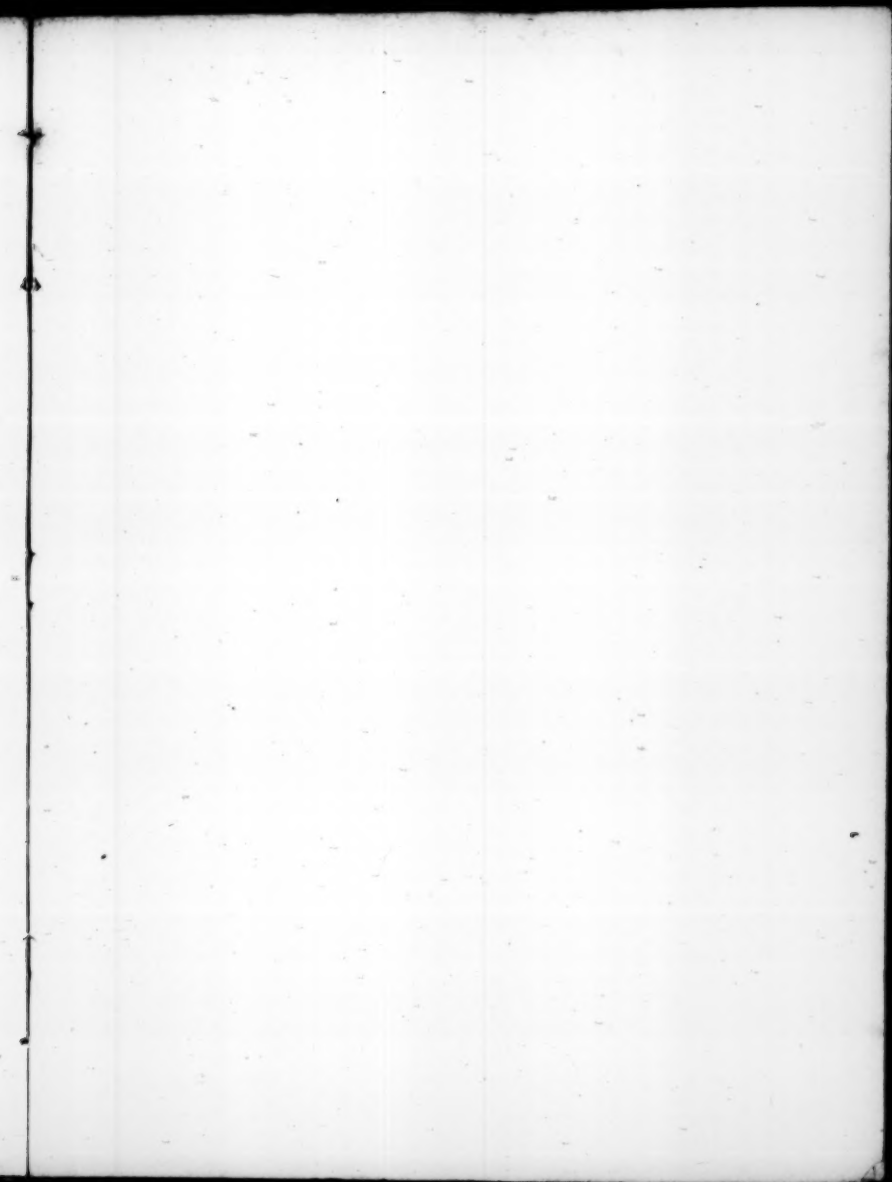
What Advantages in particular may be lost or gotten, and what Damages may be incur'd or avoided by neglect of those Isles, may appear by considering the annexed Papers which are now offer'd to perusal, without such further Observations as I could have made upon them, if my urgent Affairs would have permitted the prosecution of my first intention, which are the cause that you receive these lines so imperfect, and so abruptly from

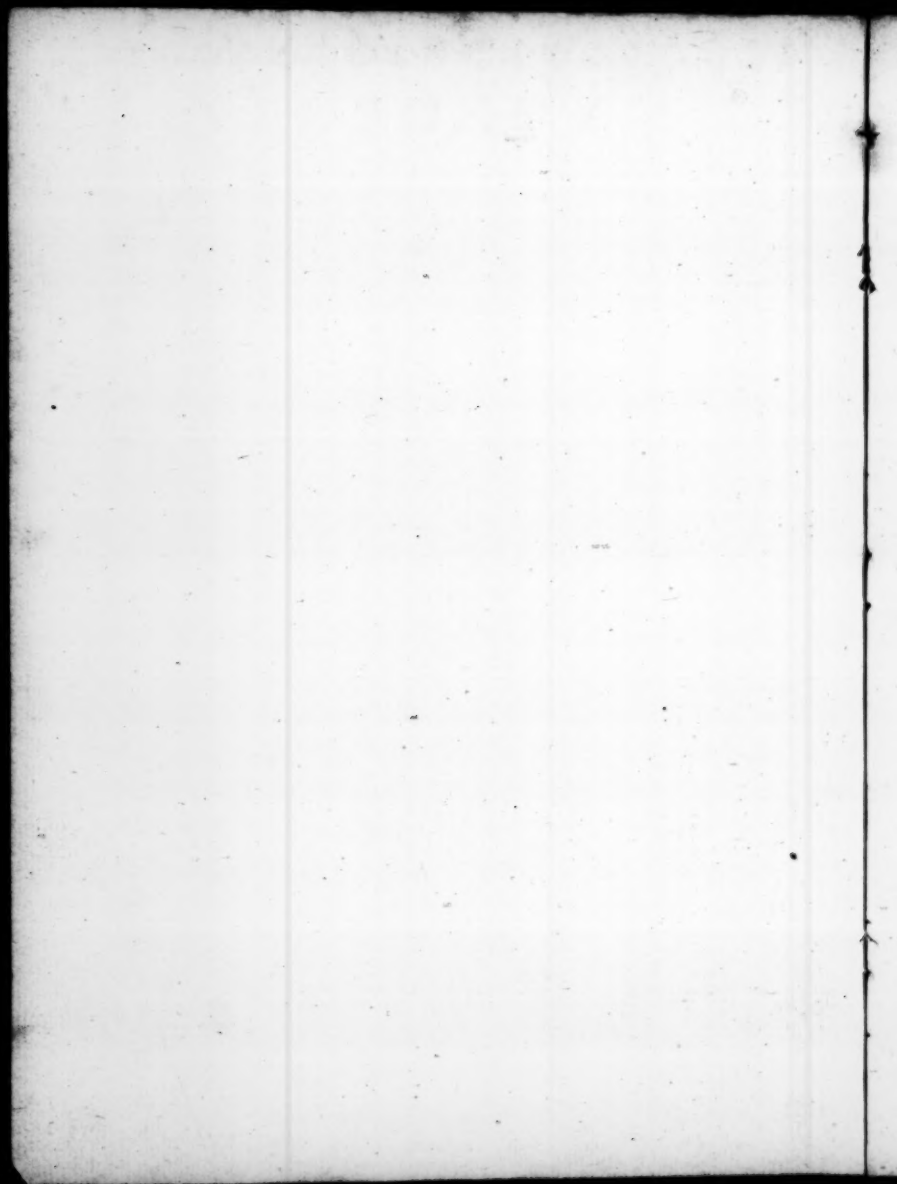
Your humble Servant,

July the 18th 1651.

GEORGE WITHER.

F I N I S.





A S H O R T
C O L L E C T I O N

O F T H E

M o s t R e m a r k a b l e P a s s a g e s
f r o m t h e o r i g i n a l l t o t h e d i s s o l u t i o n

O F T H E

V I R G I N I A
C O M P A N Y .

Arthur Woodnath.



£ L O N D O N ,

Printed by *Richard Cotes* for *Edward Husband*, at the
Golden Dragon in *Fleetstreet*, 1651.

A. S. FORT

COLLECTION

of the
of the collection of the

COMPANY

LONDON



To the honorable Company
of the Adventurers for the *Sommer*
(*alias Bermudas*) Islands.

My Lords and Gentlemen,



Having received this following Collection some yeares since, by the appointment of Mr. *W. Woodnoth* deceased, without further directions then what might be gathered from the Postscript and purpose of the whole Relation ; I remember the Authour Mr. *Arthur Woodnoth* to have been a worthy member, and sometimes Deputy of this Company, and an ancient Adventurer and diligent prossecutor of the best ends for the advancement of the *Virginia* Plantation. I conceive his purpose might be to take a fit-

The Epistle Dedicatory.

ting time for reviving the originall rights of this Plantation, and thereby to encourage this Company in their best endeavours, by setting forth the honour and constant goodnesse of Sir *John Danvers* likely to give the greatest assistance therein. And considering the respect and gratefulnesse of most of the members and best interested persons of this Company, in choosing that worthy person Sir *John Danvers* your Governour, and finding his constant endeavours to answer the greatest of your expectations, in preserving your just rights and priviledges; I judge it now a fit time to publish the same; and shall forbear to say more of his worth, so fully charactered throughout this Discourse.

A. P.



An Account and Observation taken
by *A. W.* a true friend and Servant to
Sir Iohn Danvers, and the Parliament-interest.

Containing a great part of his more Publick
Transactions, concerning the Plantation of
VIRGINIA, &c.



After some years spent at severall times in
travell beyond the seas, he was shortly
after his return into *England*, sworne
Servant to *P. Henry*, of his Privy-cham-
ber in ordinary, remaining under the
countenance of his favour till hee died.
But the light of the Court seeming to
him much obscured after the setting of
that bright star, and some relish taken
of the uncertainty of Court-favour towards any that should
shew themselves cordiall for Publick good (which was al-
waies his aim) in Parliament, or other-where; hee was un-
willing to fixe himself in any particular dependence upon
the Court: all that he sought was some just recommendation
from this King, who upon that occasion told him, that hee
would value him with the best of his Servants of his conditi-
on, for the love he knew his brother bore to him; whereunto

Sir *J. Danvers* answered, it was so great a favour, as that he would ask no better then to be continued in his esteem, which he would value as much as if hee had preferred him to some great office or place in his service.

And further considering the proceedings of K. and Court, where the ordinary transactions by men of all conditions were mostly directed towards the advancement of absolute power and tyranny, he was lesse frequent in Court, and renewed his former care and diligence, spending much time in advancing the honorable designs for the Plantation of *Virginia*.

The Continent of *Virginia* discovered in the time of Q. *Elizabeth* (who gave it that name) was in the beginning of K. *James* his reign much advanced in reputation, and the advantages promised thereby seemed then worthy the best consideration how to make it a Plantation for the *English*: Whereupon many worthy Patriots, Lords, Knights, Gentlemen, Merchants, and others held consultation, which produced a large subscription of Adventurers of all qualities in severall proportions, to the value of 200000. *l.* or thereabouts. By which time a Patent was procured with great privileges and immunities for the Adventurers, as establishing and empowering a Councell of State, as well as a generall Company, whereby the whole affairs of that Plantation should in perpetuity bee governed; when a great and forward confidence was cast upon Sir *Thomas Smith*, Governour of the *East-India*, and divers other Companies in *London*; who because he was imprisoned in the Tower, after the Earl of *Essex* had rested at his house (being Sheriffe at that time his Lordship went to appeal to the Citizens of *London*, the day of his last restraint) was thought a better Patriot then afterwards approved. But he so far prevailed, or some others in his behalfe, that he was constituted the first Governour of that Company, but under the title of Treasurer, whereby hee had the chief power and purse of the Company.

And about this time one Sir *Thomas Gates*, reputed a worthy, discreet, and experienced Soldier, was sent as Governour into *Virginia*, which drew on a great increase of people voyaging thither, and planting there, who were to have shipping and

and provisions sent them by the said Treasurer and Company; which accordingly was ordered, and in some reasonable manner in appearance performed for the space of three years, or thereabouts, the time limited for the Government of the said Sir Thomas Gates.

But in short time the reputation of this undertaking grew so high, and the government of *Virginia* was thought so considerable, as it must bee confirmed upon some Peere of the Realm, and the *L. de la Warr* was nominated thereunto, and went Governour by Patent from the Company for three years. But through the failing of industry upon the place, and of supplies of sweet victualls, and other accommodations by shipping from *England*, and the sicklinesse the Lord Governour had contracted there, hee came home before his time was expired. When Sir Thomas Smith used means by his Courtship rather to blame the unhealthfulnesse of that Countrey, then to have any fault imposed upon the undertakers, for want of sending supplies in due time to *Virginia*.

Neverthelesse, Henry Earl of Southampton, whose goodnesse equalled his honour, having long understood as well by the generall notions hee had of the place, as by persons particularly employed in such discovery, that it was no lesse healthfull then fruitfull, if rightly ordered by some industrious person, his Lordship procured Sir Thomas Dale a worthy and experienced Souldier in the Low-countreys to be sent thither as Governour, by whose judicious observation and industry they might be assured of the whole state and condition of the Countrey and People on that Plantation. And hee by the ability of his body as well as mind, through much indurance, by want in the miscarriage of supplies, brought home, as a great instance of his labours and value of the Countrey, at least sixteen severall sorts of staple commodities, to be raised and propagated in this Plantation.

And now the best affected of this Nation having found the pulse of the Court beating wholly in observance of the Spanish Counsells and ends, by interrupting at home, and barring our trade to the *W. Indies*, laid hold on this expectation
of

of *Virginia*, as a providence cast before them of double advantage, by means whereof those also that would avoid Court dependence, might most honourably imploy themselves in attending the meetings of that Company and Councell; whilst in short time some other new discoveries were made by the adventures and charge of the said Company, as that of the *Bermudas*, which by reason of its naturall strength, and convenient situation gave additionall encouragement, and seemed to promise security for warlike shipping and navigation throughout the *English* Plantations.

Frequent consultations were now had of these affairs in the Assemblies of that Councell and Company, and otherwise amongst those who were most distastd with the proceedings of the Court, and stood best affected to Religion and Liberty; which occasioned that passionate speech of K. *James*, swearing, *The Virginia Company was a seminary for a seditious Parliament*, which caused a more close and considerate proceeding in those affairs. But the meetings authorized by several Patents granted under the great Seal did exclude or divert the Prerogative-destructive intrusion; whilst a number of great Lords and some others remained sedulous and united towards the right ends declared.

And by this time it appeared palpably that encouragements were given on all hands to disturb and interrupt the regular and forward proceedings of the Company, and the care and circumspection of the Councell in like manner made burdensome and prejudiciall to many worthy persons in particular. When also in a first place the Plantation of *New England*, though at first under the patent and limitation of *Virginia*; was after much dispute and prosecution by Sir *Ferdinando Gorges* then Governour of *Plimmouth*, and of the Court Party, by a new Patent under the specious title of the *Western Plantation* divided from the first undertaking, and had greater compliance with the King and Court-interest, the more to divide the strength, and weaken the power of the Councell and Company of *Virginia*, residing in and about *London*. Which nevertheless the wisdom of God hath made in these dayes to appear a blessing upon that undertaking. Other interrupti-

ons were from turbulent persons, whose weakest pretensions against the Company or eminent persons therein concerned, were winged with powerfull recommendation from Court, but not so considerable yet, as to hinder the sedulity of those worthy persons and Parriots; who still consulting the wayes and means for the wished ends, and finding Sir *Thomas Smith* involved with the Court and *Spanish* party, it was as soon suspected that by his super-intendence as President and Governour, he had willingly omitted the care and vigilance which should have forwarded and secured the supplies; the want whereof had distressed and discouraged the chief undertaking. Nor was there any such account appearing, but that much money received was unaccounted for; but managed in such an intricate or delusive way as could not well bee charged on the Treasurer, nor directly on any other responsible person.

At private meetings of the E. of *Southampton*, Sir *Edwin Sandys*, Sir *John Danvers*, &c. severall observations and proposals occasioned this result, that nothing would serve to redeem the honour and reputation of the design for *Virginia*, and re-advance the prosperity thereof, so much as an entire and reall account published, the better to discover former negligences or corruptions, and to beget a better care for the future. And hereupon at a great and generall *Quarter-Court*, Sir *Edwin Sandys*, Sir *John Danvers*, Mr. *J. Wroth*, Mr. *Abbots*, afterwards Sir *Maurice Abbots*, and Mr. *Abdey* afterwards Alderman, were five Auditors authorized to draw on all manner of accounts, for satisfaction of the world as well as the Company.

Against any good effect by such Audit much endeavour and backwardnesse appeared in all kind of Accountants, but most in Sir *Thomas Smith's* Creatures or dependents; whereby great difficulty, or at least dilatorinesse was found, which Sir *M. Abbots*, and Alderman *Abdey* took for occasion to tell the rest, that they being Merchants, their necessary businesse would not afford them time for a work of such unhopefull an issue, by reason of the various intricacies of Accounts, and of such uncertain voyages as those for Plantations. They desiring and forcing to be excused, left the whole care and pains to

Sir E. Sandys, Sir John Danvers, and Mr. Wroth, who finding a multiplication of difficulties and interruptions from day to day, were forced after two or three moneths time; first, to suppositate a new and direct method for accounting for the future, which in a book of Account exposed weekly at every Court on the Table, might the better satisfie; whilst a larger time was taken to rake up the more ancient obstruction or concealment. In which pursuit Sir E. Sandys, Sir J. Danvers, and most times Mr. J. Wroth were together five dayes of the week, from between nine and ten of the clock in the morning, till five or six in the evening, for the space of nine moneths; not without retrying and possibility of gaining in a very considerable sum, to be charged on Sir Th. Smith, as was generally beleevd.

Mean while much industry was used by Bed-chamber-men, and other super-intendent great persons to beget a disrelish in K. James against the proceedings of the Virginia Company, upon the score that he was to uphold Sir Thomas Smith's honour and reputation, so prevalent in Companies, and amongst the most wealthy Citizens, to procure him loans for supplying his most necessary occasions: which by meanes of Sir John Danvers familiar correspondence with some of the Bed-chamber, that did serve P. Henry, was prevented, by inculcating the consideration of palpable injustice, in obstructing the power granted to the Company: as others in like manner were carefull, whereby the businesse of Virginia forced (as it were) a passage through opposition, both forain and domestick; for the Spanish Ambassador (whose power was great in the Court Counsells) was very sedulous, and spared no money to hinder the same.

The good hope of this Plantation bringing on the ancient Adventurers, and their moneys, encouraged also the prosecution and attaining the grant of a Lottery over all England, which seconded with respective private Letters to the generous and well affected persons in every County, caused great sums of money to be brought in, and imployed for the Plantation, which brought on the casting out Sir Tho. Smith, and establishing Sir Ed. Sandys Treasurer and Governour of the

the Company, by whose great care and abilities *Virginia's* increase and plenty seemed a very hopeful addition to the dominion of *England*.

Mean-whiles the care and circumspection of the now Governour drew all sorts of experienced persons of other Nations as Minerall men from *Germany*, Vignerons from *France*, &c. to present themselves, who were in numbers entertained to assist the industry of the Planters, which with many other concurrent circumstances of encouragement appeared in one years time advantagious to the design beyond expectation, as by Sir E. Sandys account of his Transactions was made manifest unto hundreds of Lords and Gentlemen assembled at their Quarter Court in *Easter* term, the time for the new election of the Treasurer or Governour. At which time when the Court prepared to make a new election, most intending to choose Sir *Edwin Sandys* for another year, Mr. *Robert Kirkham* one of the Clerks of the Signet, with Mr. *Alderman Hammersley*, presented themselves as Messengers from K. *James*, congratulating the hopefull progresse of the *Virginia* Plantation, but withall professing his Majesties great care, where so many of his subjects were concerned. And therefore the Countrey being so remote, and wherein the greatest Merchants might be most knowing through their experience and interest, his Majesty recommended six persons, whereof he expected one should be that day chosen their Governour; which struck a silence into the whole Court for a time, but in conclusion declared (as beleaved) by *Will. E. of Pembroke*, *Henry E. of Southampton*, and others, to bee against the Companies just freedome of election granted by Letters Patents, and caused by some mis-information given the King, whereof they would speak with him. In the mean time an order was entred for continuance of that Quarter Court on a day the week after.

The same Court again assembled, and those Lords desired a preparative meeting of the Councell for *Virginia*, where it was freely recounted, how K. *James* remained obstinately excepting against the person of Sir *Edwin Sandys*, declaring him his greatest enemy, and that hee could hardly think well

of whomsoever was his friend, and all this in a furious passion returning no other answer, but *Choose the Devill, if you will*, but not Sir Edwin Sandys.

Hereupon the generality of the Company being in the height of discontent, and the Lords and others of the more timorous nature in trouble how to proceed in the presence of a very considerable Assembly in a cause so lately raised to such expectation, which now they could not but account lost by this discouragement, Sir *John Danvers* entreated some private conference with the E. of *Southampton*, a most cordiall stickler for this Plantation, and asked, whether his Lordship would be pleased to own the place, if the Company chose him Treasurer, whilst they should not fail by all means to free him from the pains and trouble by nominating such a Deputy as would please his Lordship and the whole Company, in prosecuting still those wayes which might give satisfaction and encouragement to the undertakers. That most Noble Lords answer was, I know the King will be angry at it, but so the expectation of this pious and glorious work may be encouraged, let them doe with me what they please. And accordingly the councel & Company in a fair way chose the Earle Treasurer, and Sir *E. Sandys* Deputy, which such other co-incident officers for propagating the work intended, as was generally acceptable and applauded by all good men.

The publick asserting of those rights and immunities granted under the great Seal of *England*, much raised the spirits, and increased the numbers of those that made preparation for this Plantation; for within the following year there were above fifty Patents granted under the Seal of the Company to severall persons, who were to have lands set out and allotted unto them, proportionable to the numbers of people they engaged to transplant from *England*; the least number so contracted for in any one Patent was a hundred, some 5 hundred, some a thousand, and divers in greater proportions, and these patentees were not the meanest in honor, vertue and godlines.

And now was likewise so great a compli-
 work, and moneys came in so plentifully from the Lottery,
 and by payment of Arrears upon former subscriptions, as see-

med almost to promise as well as to invite a great part of the Nation to withdraw themselves from an oppressing unto a more free government establishing in *Virginia*, whither great store of shipping was engaged and even in readinesse; when in the conclusion of a broken Parliament by K. *James*, both the E. of *Southampton* and Sir *Edwin Sandys* were committed close Prisoners, upon private assumed suggestions, which struck some terrour into most undertakers for *Virginia*. Nor did the shipping and Passengers know which way to derive those Orders, Warrants, and Allowances which were many ways necessary and pertinent for setting forward of their voyages. The complaints and apprehensions thereupon coming to the place where the Courts and Registries were kept. (the house of Mr. *Farrars* Merchant in *St. Syths-lane, London*.) much bewailing and consultation was there had. Where after consideration of the power granted to the Company; the two *Farrars* Brothers by their discretion and affection assisting much herein) it was resolved, That the Company might and should proceed, as if their Governour and Deputy were hindred by sicknesse, or other diversion, and finding the whole proceeding like to be more advantaged if Sir *John Darvers* would shew himselfe to keep and governe the Courts, a number went with Mr. *Nicholas Farrar* home to his house, imploring his assistance, which (though knowing, as my Lord of *Southampton* said, the King would not be pleased therewith) he readily undertook, to the great satisfaction of many the Adventurers and Planters. In which time of his transaction, which was about a moneth or three weeks, there were freighted and went out from *London* 25 sail of considerable shipping and numbers of Passengers for *Virginia*, besides others about the same time from the *Western* ports.

The E. of *Southampton*, and Sir *Ed. Sandys* were by this time released, and nothing appearing against them, rejoiced the more, to find the dispatch of the shipping, &c. so well over. And though by a contrived sudden complaint in Parliament, against the Lotteries for *Virginia*, as pernicious to the countries where they were introduced, with seconding informations suggested; the Lotteries were voted down, and the greatest

Streams for supplies of money now stopt, yet consultation and endeavours gave new hope of benefit other ways, which more then probably might still advance the Plantation, wherein many parties had their aims and expectation.

Whilst these forementioned passages were in hand, the Court and *Spanish* faction failed not to give assistance and encouragement to all those (and they were very many) that strained by any way or means to divert or interrupt the affaires under the care of this Councell and Company. Which drew on their consideration for the displacing of Sir *Thomas Smith*, and constituting of Sir *Edwin Sandys* Governour of the *Bermudas* or Summer-Islands Company, and Plantation, which was an appendant of *Virginia*, the labour and safety of both being the same, and by the members thought fit to be trusted in one way, and in hands and counsells best approved. Sir *Ed. Sandys* settling in that government, was incountred with much information of neglect or infidelity committed therein, by Sir *Thomas Smith*, the Island wholly wanting ammunition to maintain it against an enemy: which the place being of that importance, seemed much to startle the undertakers, the most whereof were the principall Earls, Lords, and Gentlemen of best thoughts and affection in the *Virginia* Company, who as they were particularly interessed by purchase, so had they a speciall care of the Castles, Fortresses and harbour there, capable to preserve and maintain a Fleet of ships, fit to succour and protect *Virginia*, and other *American* Plantations in expectation to be added thereunto, from the amplitude of a later Patent for comprehending a number of other Islands as well as the *Bermudas*, within the limitation of the *Virginia* Plantation.

And now it was advertised from the E. of *Somerfet*, the then Favourite and Favourer of the *English* rights, that he understood by confident intelligence, that the *Spaniards* had a design about a certain time of that yeer to attempt the seizing of that Island, because it was wholly unprovided of powder and ammunition, & apprehended as at this time without visible possibility of present supplies. But it pleased God through the neglective way of Sir *Tho. Smith* the government of the Island

was

was disposed into the hands of one *Mure*, who upon sight of two *Spanish* Vessells of good burden approaching towards the chief Castle at the entrance of the Port, got powder and shot for the charging only of two peeces of Artillery, which levelled and discharged neer at once upon those ships. The Commander thinking himself betrayed, because he was assured hee should find no manner of ammunition, weighs anchor, and sets sail away from thence, as the first return of shipping from the *Bermudas* made cleer unto the Company, &c.

This happy escape aggravating the omission or corruption of Sir *Tho. Smith*, seemed to revive and give a new vigour to the Partners in this Plantation, and there being nothing of more speedy advantage on the place for return to the owners and adventurers then the planting and transporting of Tobacco (whilst it might be imported, as from *Virginia* for 5 per cent. for their custome) great store thereof was made and preparing, when upon some tender of a large rent for the sole sale of Tobacco, an order of the Councell Bord did impose payment of the highest custome, as to thirty or forty in the hundred upon the *Bermudas* Tobacco, proportionably with all other, notwithstanding the exemption within their Patent: which, with other things, much intrenching upon the rights and priviledges of the Adventurers, gave occasion of a through consultation of the Earls, Lords, Gentlemen and Merchants concerned, and in conclusion caused an addresse of themselves personally, desiring audience of K. *James*, which being attained, and prosecuted by the society of the Earles of *Pembroke*, *Southampton*, and others, the Lord *Cavendish* being appointed to expresse the nature of complaint and appeale to the King, his Lordship had no sooner entred into the matter, but that his Majesty began to shew much discontent, and with much adoe was drawn to any patience, which gave much discouragement in the case, and prevented the declaring of the most just cause of importunity appointed to my Lord *Cavendish*; when Sir *John Danvers* fell on his knee, and besought the King to hear him, as the first time hee ever had the honour to speak unto his Majesty in a serious businesse: and having leave, he stoutly inculcated that point of justice, which could not be denied;

denyed, at which the King flang away in greater passion, in-
somuch that the Prince who is now King, drew Sir *J. Danvers*
aside, as in favor to him, desiring he would urge the King no
further, and undertook to speak with Sir *J. Danvers*, and ac-
cordingly to move the King at some other time, which was
unperformed, though more then once desired by Sir *J. Danvers*.

According to which course or vogue of State, some Lords
and others, though Members of the same Company, took up
speciously the corrupt interest of those that had been formerly
constituted and imployed in places & affairs of trust belonging
to these Plantations, as some of the former Governours sent
in time of Sir *Thomas Smiths* Government, either to *Virginia* or
the *Bermudas*, &c. who being concurrently obnoxious in point
of Account, were as firmly supported by him and his friends,
with the Spanniolized faction of the Councell Bord, and the
Kings Bed-chamber. Which proceedings excited the better and
more constant faithfull party to the more carefull and labo-
rious perseverance, when the prospering of the undertaking
towards so great an addition of Dominion, was from time to
time interrupted, as about this time by *Queres* to the number
of two or three and thirty from the Councell Bord, by the
Kings speciall appointment, pretending great care that such
numbers of his subjects gone to the Plantations, might bee
circumstantially provided for in their laws, freedoms, &c.
These *Queres* sent on the Saturday were to bee satisfied the
Tuesday following, at sitting of the Councell in the after-
noon. The Lord *Cavendish*, Sir *Edwin Sandys*, Sir *John Danvers*
and Mr. *Nicholas Farrar* meeting by appointment of the Com-
pany, with power to consider and present what they should
find pertinent therein, found a hard taske to answer so many
particulars in so short time. Yet finding that the truths couch-
ed or exemplified in the Leiger-books of the Company would
fatishe the *Queres* and objections thereupon, Mr. *Farrar* desired
the businesse and search might be divided into 4 parts, where-
in hee would take that of greatest labour: which was conclu-
ded by the other three, and accordingly brought together the
Tuesday morning, and presented to the Councell Bord in the
afternoon, and gave the Lords a most unexpected satisfaction,

as was confessed. When by way of congratulation it was proposed, that now there was so great numbers and Trade like to follow in that Plantation, some care might be taken for their safety by special fortifications, & an account thereof made to the King. Whereupon it was ordered at the Bord, that *William* Earl of *Pembrooke*, *Southampton* and other Lords of the Councell and Company for *Virginia*, should make enquiry and acquaint his Majesty of what was, and would be done in that point, for preservation of the lives of his subjects against enemies, either Natives of *Virginia*, or others, since hee had vowed, that if he had not satisfaction therein, he would think himself bound to take the whole government and the appointing of Governours into his own hands. Which occasioned the calling together of a Councell for *Virginia* of all that were neer, who as they cleerly saw the desperate malignity of the Secret-Court-Spanish party, so often appearing in persecution of this Plantation; so had they a great apprehension the King could not be easily satisfied, since the Companies treasure was exhausted, and there was little hopes of more contribution or Adventurers, whilst they lay under such discouragement. Sir *John Darvers* remembering some notion of hope, and looking over the books of Letters from *Virginia*, hee observed that throughout the year past there was never lesse then 17 saile of shipping in *James River*, the heart of the Plantation, inferring, that if the Kings fairer compliance should keep the Company in the same encouragement, the strength of so many flourishing Forts in that flat scituation, would be equivalent to, if not exceeding any possible speedy fortification; which the E. of *Pembrooke*, &c. conceived fully sufficient to satisfy the King, if he had not an inveterate disaffection to the work: and this proved an answer appearingly well received by the King.

Now had the Company a little leasure from the stormes or inquisition of the Councell Bord, whilst neverthelesse particular persons of all ranks, and divers under the countenance of those disaffected Lords & others, were slain from the true sense and justice of the work chiefly intended. But it was not long before Sir *Lionel Cranfield*, presently after E. of *Middlesex*, about the time of his approaching to be L. Treasurer, seemed seriously to renew his former professed contemplation of, & affection to the work of this Plantation, with many reasons and instances of his well-wishing, and

at last made this specious overture. It is a misfortune (saies he) not to be avoided, that whilst the Plantations in their present infancy have their whole subsistence by the trade of tobacco, the Kings necessities casting him upon all, and any ways for advancement of his revenue, a tender is made of more then 20000. *l. per annum*; for the whole importing and sale thereof, and when the *Virginia* or *Summer-Islands* Company offer to plead their freedom in the case, the Lawyers say, it is a poisonous drug which the King might justifie to banish or burn, and not to be accounted as a staple or nationall commodity, in which case it was in the Kings power to doe his pleasure in any sort concerning the same; But to comply for the advantage of the Plantation, the Company might, and should if they pleased, have the sole importation to them and in their managing, for 20000. *l. per ann.* And to make his zeale and care appeare for the prosperity of this great and pious work, he would put the Company into a way, whereby 200000. *l.* more should bee gained over and above the Rent, to recompense their want of supplies by the Lottery, or by the freedome of their owne Tobacco from the necessitated height of custome. And further declares, that their providing for the Kings interest in so fixed a rent, would make him every way capable and assistant to all their future endeavours; which by some collaterall means bending a great part of the most diligent adventurers of the Company to comply with this Proposition (some conceiving they should find a better glyde in the businesse, others to have some advantageous employment in the managing of the Tobacco farme, and these considerations by way of result promoted by severall stirring spirits on *Middlesex* his grounds) the contract seemed concluded, and the managing parts designed to special persons. When as soon almost it was apparent that nothing of good was intended towards the Company, for now many base & false suggestions were raised against the *E. of Southampt.* Sir *E. Sandys*, and others, not a little aggravating in the minds of many ingenuous persons, who had no beleef in such loosening of legal interest by Patent, the just ground of the whole undertaking, which with many lurking and distributed inventions diverted and broke the contract, whilst the subtilty of *Cranfield* advanced the same farm with avowed neglect of the Company and persons adhering thereunto. And when the greatest disturbance

bance on this and other occasions had wrought the members of this Company into eminent distraction, a Commission and Instructions were by way of inquisition were issued with power to Judge Jones, Sir Henry Spiller, &c. to examine the proceedings of the *Virginia* and Sommer-Islands Company, as especially of the E. of *Southampton*, and Sir E. Sandys, which howsoever strictly and strangely carried [as when a Noble person asked the Judge, how he that was sworn to the laws, durst own proceedings in that nature, his answer was openly, *There was one law of the land, but another law of the Kings Commissions*] yet many days and weeks of the inquisition or persecution discovered no unworthinesse against them, or any other of their comforts. After this the Councell, Company, Adventurers and Planters for *Virginia*, conceiving their estate and condition grown more hopefull, having past through the fire of such severall rigorous inquisitions, and the undertakers having farre engaged therein, a great rise of confidence and assurance appeared generally, as a renewing incouragement. But their sedulity and fervency was suddenly quashd by a *Quo Warranto* brought in the Kings Bench against their Patent. And notwithstanding it was more then presumed by some, that the most rightfull contest or waging in a legal way would be fruitlesse, yet the Company by vote and order thereupon entertained counsell of the best Lawyers they could get, and resolved to spend the remaining part of their stock and cash to plead their cause to a due issue; when also some good number of unknown persons sent in mony, plate, and jewels, to animate and assist so just a defence as this Companies right and interest, whilst many could not but conceive and fear the example might be most pernicious in other cases. Yet nevertheless before the end of the same term a judgment was declared by the Lord Chief Justice *Loy* against the Company and their Charter, only upon a failer, or mistake in pleading. Which destroyed the hopes of all that lookt in a just & righteous way towards that pious and publick work of Plantations. What was after prosecuted by force of the Kings Commissions may appear by others, who have thought fit to embrace hope under such constitutions.

Through the calamity of the forementioned sentence, very many honest and worthy persons declining to act under the Kings

Commissioⁿ-laws, surceased from their exemplary industry towards Plantations; only the Company of *Bermudas* dependent and derived by particular purchase, and for valuable consideration from the *Virginia* Company, with confirmation by speciall Charter under the great Seal, persisted in greater hope and confidence by reason their chief undertakers were Earls, Lords, and others of quality, but most of them failing in short time, either by compliance or neglect, the care of this Plantation fell into the hands of some Members of the Company, lesse considerable, as to Court-interest and qualification, not without discouragement in the generall; which was the more disperfed by divers suggestions, as that those Islands had been declined or forsaken by the *Spaniards*, because they had found the place to bee only a shell or shoale of rocks, that had contracted a small thickeffe of earth by the falling of leaves from the trees, and hearbs growing up between the rocks, which a short time would wear out, and quickly discover the folly of those that pretended to plant upon that soil; and that if any further thought should be to fortifie thereon, or have shipping there, in probability to offend or interrupt the *Spaniards* interest or trading in those parts, their power in the *West-Indies*, would be sure to ruin all that the *English* had effected by whatsoever charge of any particular Company, unless the King would undertake to back them with his power, wherunto hee seemed utterly averse. Neverthelesse, by the incessant good indeavours of some few worthy Patriots, seasonably assisted by Sir *John Danvers*, and others, upholding and encouraging them from time to time, a competent number of the owners of severall shares of land, still remained well affected to maintain the Companies and every mans just interest. Who by choosing persons of eminency to bear the name of Governours of their Company, that were willing to appear for their support, and by driving an annuall small trade of Tobacco, &c. held on the regular government of the Company here, and at the Islands, through various interruption, in hope of such fairer times as might afford opportunity for highest thoughts of advantage to the undertakers, in which case though almost languishing they may not despair of some good issue of their best desires.

It may not be unfit in this place to call to mind some speciall

acts of Sir *John Danvers*, wherein he took opportunity faithfully and kindly to serve his worthy friends. One whereof was this, That shortly after the judgment against the *Virginia* Company, one Mr. *Collingwood* came unto him, recounting his acknowledgement of great obligations for recommending him to the place of Secretary to the *Virginia* Company, which was growing every day more valuable, in case it had been happily continued : and at the same time acquainted him, that three Merchant men, one after another had been with him at his house, commending his parts and abilities for imployment, and much pittying his case to be now destitute of means for the maintenance of him and his family, but concluding in a subtil & soothing way, that as he might perceive the Kings displeasure against the E. of *Southampton*, and Sir E. *Sandys*, so would he gain imployment and great benefit to himself for all the days of his life, by saying or discovering ought of their transactions, or otherwise, that should bring any ill reflection upon their persons. When his answer was, That he knew nothing but honor and justice in their ways, nor upon any terms would be drawn to such unthankfulness, as to offer the least matter against them. It is true (said he) they mentioned nothing relating to your self (which he thought was forborn in regard of the particular relation and obligation he had to him.) Nor would Mr. *Collingwood* think it possible openly to detect and convince those Merchants of this wickedness; because they came singly unto him, and by the same knavery would deny their attempts, but that this only was to be taken as a caution against such kind of base insinuation. Sir *John Danvers* asking further, where there was any of relation to those affairs that might be tempted to such villany: he answered, there was an indigent person, whom he had made use of to write and make entries for his assistance, whose hand-writing and intelligent apprehension had caused him to be sent for divers times to *Southampton* house, and employed in dictates by that Earl and Sir E. *Sandys*, and he being of unsettled or loose life, might possibly be drawn to serve the turns of Malevolents, &c. Sir *J. Danvers* took speedy course to ingage him for a long time, most whiles lockt up in a Chamber, til he had fairly copyed the Leiger Court books of all the main transactions of the Company for *Virginia*, accordingly attested for true copies, and then encouraging him into the

countrie to see his friends, giving him a part of reward for his pains, & obliging him to come to him again for the remainder, by which means he kept him wholly out of the way, and from temptation. And as soon after as he could speak with my Lord of *Southampton*, carryed him the said authenticall copies, declaring the information of *Collingwood*, and that having sometimes heard of a great governing court Lady, who was desirous to dispossess a femal Heir that had married a young Gentleman, as to make her rather a wife to a creature or attendant of her owne, and after working somewhat in diverting their affections each from other, a legall prosecution was had to disprove the marriage, which notwithstanding was affirmed by all sorts of circumstance & witnesses, yet by corrupting a Register, who in his Entries put a negative for an affirmative, He that was Judge of the cause *secundum allegata & probata* expressed on the Registry, declared a nullity of the former marriage, whereby the heir was remarried to a second person. This said Sir *John Danvers* gave him to consider, how the malice against the Earl, &c. failing in all other inventions, might possibly in like manner corrupt the records of the *Virginia Company*, getting them, as they did not long after into their custody and power. Wherefore he presented his Lordship with those true copies to be alwaies ready for justification. The Earl was so affected therewith that he took Sir *J. Danvers* into his arms with very great thankfulness, saying, Who could have thought of such a friendship but *Charles Danvers* his brother, who was the truest friend that ever man had? and thereupon calling his kinsman Mr. *Wriothley* chiefly entrusted by him, declared the whole discourse, and in conclusion said, Let those books bee carryed, and safely kept at my house at *Tichfield*, they are the evidence of my honour, and I value them more then the evidence of my lands.

Sir *J. Danvers* stil applying his greatest care and interest for the advantage of his friends; finding Mr. *Will. Carr* in some degree of honour with the King, after his kinsman the E. of *Somerset* was set aside, and falling into discourse with him concerning the great worth and parts of Sir *Edwin Sandys*, whose kinswoman hee had married, and therefore might be presumed the more ready to serve him, Sir *J. Danvers* put him in mind of the Kings great displeasure against that Noble Knight, and desired him at some seasonable time

time to enquire of the King, what might bee the ground of his distast and hatred against him: to whom the King gave this answer, that he knew Sir *Ed. Sandys* to be a man of exorbitant Ambition, upon the esteem he had of his own abilities, and that because by his incessant importunity he could not prevail to be made Secretary of State he had used his utmost endeavour to cross the Kings best intentions both generall and particular; and this considered, the King said, he could not think well of any that would hold friendship with him. Mr. *Carr* communicating this to Sir *J. Danvers*, he told him, there was but one tryall more to be made, that since possibly, according to the usuall stratagems practised in Court, some might have unseasonably importuned the King in his behalf, and under the pretence of friendship done him some great prejudice in incensing the Kings hatred against him, he would be pleased to venture so far, as to presse the King to know who they were that solicited his Majesty for him, without his concurrence in a businesse that had brought so much of his displeasure upon him. Which Mr. *Carr* as nobly undertook, when the King was faine to take on him the whole matter and circumstance, saying, *Sandys* was too crafty to put his own ambitious design into any other hand, or move it otherwise then by his own mouth, from whom he had received such encroaching importunities as had utterly destroyed any interest hee might ever expect in his good opinion: and so the King fell off in so great a fury, and with such imprecations from Mr. *Carr*, that hee meeting with Sir *J. Danvers* bewailed the case with a very great doubtfulness what to think, moving questions about the integrity of Sir *Edw. Sandys*, which had been so much declared and beleaved: and so Sir *J. Danvers* and Mr. *Carr* parted, much wondring at this.

Not long after the Court being removed to *Greenwich*, Sir *Edw. Sandys* having some businesse with my Lord Privy-Seale, repaired thither, and being espyed by Sir *J. Danvers* neer to the Privy-chamber, who went to salute him, he demanded what room that was so full of company, and Sir *J. Danvers* telling him it was the Kings Privy-chamber, where many staid to see the King at dinner, he said he would faine see the King too, so as the King might not see him, because (as he said) he had understood by his best friends, the Kings impatience would wrong him should hee come neer him.

him. Whereupon Sir *John Darvers* told him he would warrant to stand so before him in the throng that he might have full view of the King without being discovered by him; which was accordingly performed for about a quarter of an hour, and so both retired out of that room. And afterwards Sir *Edwin Sandys* wondering that the King was so much altered in body and countenance since he had seen him last, which was when he came first out of *Scotland*, where he was with him. Is it possible, said Sir *John Darvers*, (thinking of the passage Mr. *Carr* had told him) that you having been so much in Parliament, and about *London*, should never have seen the King in so long a time? it seems almost past belief. Sir *Edwin* assuredly affirmed it, adding that from some apprehension given the King from his being in *Scotland*, when he had discourse with him, but of nothing that might give any offence, he had been warned by entire friends, and had observed by many passages in his owne particular, that it would neither be fit nor safe for him to come in his sight. The same day towards evening Sir *John Darvers* meeting with Mr. *Carr*, told him of this encounter in matter and circumstance, who lifting up his hands and eyes, said, *Now God blesse all good men, for my Master is a very* —. All which endeavour with Mr. *Carr*'s leave was made known to Sir *Edwin*, who doubtlesse made a right use of this discovery.

These instances, with others of like nature, too large to be remembered here, confirm the observation of those two worthy Gen. Mr. *John* and *Nicholas Farrars*, the one a Merchant of known honesty, and the other eminent in all kind of learning, and true piety, (who with their most vertuous Mother deserve an honorable memory for their deserts, by laying out a good part of their plentifull fortune in piously advancing the undertaking for the *Virginia* and *Bermudas* Plantation). That the Earl of *Southampton* was a noble person, of true honour and impartiall justice. Sir *Edwin Sandys*, a man of great worth, learning, and knowledg, but Sir *John Darvers* of a single entire heart, and firm in friendship.

POSTSCRIPT.

I Desire my Cousen *will. Woodnoth* to offer this seasonably according to the communication had thereof between us; and if in the mean time he can get to view the Court-books of the *Virginia* Company, and the Orders of the Council Board, he shal doe well to add the year of our Lord in the Margent at every main Transaction.

A. W.

FINIS.

He died 22nd Nov. 1624. Lodge.

